International Olympic Committee will not be eligible for Arjuna Award.

(iv) Maximum Number of Awardees has been fixed at 15 in any calendar year.

(v) The prize money has been increased from Rs. 1.50 lakhs to Rs. 3.00 lakhs.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) While finalizing the Scheme, the selection procedures followed by several Indian National Awards, were taken into account. No international models on sporting awards were taken into consideration. This Schemes has been devised keeping in view the Indian sports standards; as such no comparison can be drawn with international awards.

New Award Scheme for Sports

†4070. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to institute any award, other than the Arjuna Award, for life-long contribution in sports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when such new award would be instituted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is proposing to introduce a scheme titled "Dhyan Chand Award" for life time achievement in sports. As the scheme is in draft stage, it is not possible to indicate the details at this stage.

(c) The scheme is expected to be instituted in the current financial year.

Cricket ties with Pakistan

4071. DR. KARAN SINGH : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to revive cricket ties with Pakistan, as a first step to improve relations with that country, as suggested, of late, by Pakistan President;

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any bilateral or multilateral games or matches have been planned; if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) As per the existing policy clarified to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), the Government considers it inapprorpriate to participate in a two-nation tournament between India and Pakistan at present. The Government has also taken a decision not to play any matches at non-regular venues at least for a period of three years. India will thus continue to play against Pakistan in multilateral tournaments at regular venues. However, the permission to a particular event will be given on receipt of the proposal on case to case basis after completing requisite formalities.

(c) A proposal has been received from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for participation in ICC Champions' Trophy 2002 scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka from September 12-30, 2002. In the tournament, all test playing countries including Pakistan will participate. A decision on the participation of the Indian team in this event is yet to be taken.

Assistance to States for Stadia

4072. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY : Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government provide funds for construction of sports stadia in District Head Quarters, in various States, to promote sports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any funds have been provided to various States for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the Schemes of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure, Central assistance is provided for construction of various sports projects, including stadia, anywhere in the State including District Head Quarters, subject to the receipt of viable proposals from the State Governments.